News Release from Congresswoman

Nancy Johnson

Fifth District, Connecticut www.house.gov/nancyjohnson

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Johnson Secures Jobs Funds for Danbury

Project Will Develop Cutting-Edge Naval Technologies, Lead to Job Creation in Danbury

DANBURY, CT – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson today announced she has secured $3.5 million in the annual Defense Department spending bill for Danbury's DRS Power Systems, funds that will boost development of cutting-edge naval technologies and create jobs in Danbury.

DRS Power Systems President Ed Bartlett said these projects will help lead to the creation of 75 to 100 jobs at the firm's Danbury facility.

"DRS workers in Danbury are designing and manufacturing innovative technologies for the U.S. Navy," Johnson said. "I applaud their hard work and success, which contributes both to our national security in the 21st century and job creation in Danbury."

Johnson worked with Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Bill Young (R-FL) to secure $2.5 million for a propulsion motor for the next generation family of Navy surface vessels. She also secured $1 million for a universal circuit breaker that can integrate differing power currents on naval ships quietly, safely and efficiently. Danbury DRS workers have contributed significantly to the design and manufacturing of both systems.

The defense spending bill passed the House earlier this week by a 398-19 vote.

"Danbury is part of the 'Silicon Valley' of precision instrumentation and software design," DRS President Bartlett said. "These projects will translate into jobs and permanent employment growth in Danbury. We are so grateful for Congresswoman Johnson's strong and effective support."

Johnson secured $2.5 million to continue development and testing of the "fourth generation permanent magnet naval propulsion motor," the planned propulsion drive for the Navy's future surface ships. The magnet motor is smaller and lighter than previous generation motors or conventional mechanical drive systems, freeing weight and space for use in carrying additional weapons, fuel and supplies. It is also quieter, increasing its ability to avoid detection at sea. The motor produces 50,000 horsepower and two million foot-pounds of torque.

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Johnson also secured $1 million for DRS to continue development of a universal solid-state circuit breaker to replace present mechanical circuit breakers used by the Navy. Unlike mechanical breakers, solid-state breakers transmit signals electronically and have no movable contact parts. Development of a programmable, universal solid-state breaker is crucial to maximizing the benefit of a lighter weight, “all electric ship.” The universal solid-state breaker integrates AC and DC power, making the system light and quiet while maximizing speed, reliability and safety.

DRS Power Systems is one of seven units of DRS Technologies, Inc., and has locations in Danbury, Massachusetts, and Ohio. DRS Power Systems employs 214 workers in Danbury.

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